

Belleville Organizes For Production Coming Year

Serious Food Situation Facing World Placed Before Citizens by T. W. Brock—Nominating Committee Appointed and Permanent Executive Chosen—Where Belleville's Duty Lies—Over Four Hundred Acres of Waste Land Must be Tilled.

A world on the verge of a food crisis, even starvation as pictured by Field Secretary T. W. Brock, of the Organisation of Resources Committee, who met a number of citizens of Belleville yesterday afternoon at four o'clock in the city council chamber. The meeting was hurriedly called, only a few hours notice being given, but quite a number of citizens turned out, including Mayor Platt, Ex-Mayor Ketcheson, Ald. Whelan, Ald. Curry, Ald. Trevorton, Ald. Robinson, Rev. A. S. Kerr, Rev. Dr. Baker, Rev. Dr. Blagrove, Rev. A. M. Hubby, Rev. S. C. Moore, Messrs D. V. Sinclair, Arthur Jones, C. M. Stork, Dr. G. G. Clinton, J. M. Traishack, R. Templeton, J. Elliott, Principal MacLaurin, H. G. Blocker, T. Blackburn and others.

Mr. Brock placed the situation clearly before the gathering—the need of a greatly increased production during 1918. He pointed out what towns and cities had done last year. The need is much greater this year. The world is practically in the grip of starvation. The word "shortage" is no strong enough. Next year we may feel the grip of famine, in Canada as we have felt the pinch of fuel scarcity this year. The intention is to get hold of every bit of food and ship it out as fast as shipping is supplied as far as they are able to get shipping. The duty of a food controller is not to find food for citizens but to ship to the allies every available bushel of grain. People are actually starving in some parts of the old world.

"We are asked to produce 250,000,000 bushels of wheat more this year than last. Last year we produced 235,000,000 bushels of wheat. Towns and cities are being organized. Why burden the transportation companies if we in cities can grow all our potatoes and vegetables? His advice was: raise hens, hogs, sheep. Can you do it? Potatoes, beans, peats, parsnips, turnips, carrots, peas, corn, wheat, rye, buckwheat, barley, oats."

"We are short of wheat. We are trying to increase the hogs. But it requires wheat to feed them. The food controller cannot forbid it because we have not enough coarse grain to feed them in place of wheat. There are 175,000 farm houses in Canada. The farmers cannot increase production much. There are 250,000 urban houses. Why cannot the citizens help the farmers out of a serious situation?"

Mr. Brock explained how towns were organized. Schools are being interested. It is not a question of profits, but of results. Mayor Dr. Platt, who occupied the chair called for an expression of opinion from those present as to what steps should be taken locally. Ex-Mayor Ketcheson stated that Belleville had done last year in producing foodstuffs and told what he had accomplished himself. "The spirit we must get in us, is to work ourselves."

I will fall into line. The time to do these things is now, not when it is time to put in the seed. Every man ought to tie up to some farm."

Rev. Dr. Baker. "If we do not put our best into agriculture, the boys who have gone will have lost. Those I am anxious about are those who are at home." Dr. Baker advised immediate organization.

Mr. H. F. Ketcheson advised securing a practical gardener to handle the whole local situation. The work is heavy and will require one man's time. The city should pay for the man's services.

Dr. Baker thought Albert College campus should be ploughed up for cultivation. But what crop should be grown? That was a problem. Mr. Brock pointed out how some cities worked with five committees. The people want only direction, to be shown what to do. "Form the nucleus of your organization and fill it in afterwards."

Dr. Baker suggested a nominating committee. Ald. Whelan said he thought the council could handle it. Mayor Platt thought the council should not be asked to undertake all the responsibility. The problem was too large.

Mr. H. F. Ketcheson. "There are 400 acres in the city that can be used. There are 300 vacant acres that are not fit for growing anything. I would nominate a nominating committee, consisting of the mayor, Mr. Sinclair and A. Jones, President of the Agricultural Society. Finally the nominating committee was named to be composed of—Mayor Platt, Ex-Mayor Ketcheson, D. V. Sinclair and President A. Jones of the Belleville Agricultural Society.

Chairman Ald. Curry of the Public Works Department put the department's services at the disposal of the committee. Mr. Brock asked the meeting for an expression of opinion on daylight saving as a Dominion measure.

The opinion was unanimously in such an innovation. The mayor said the council would also talk of the matter. Mr. Templeton spoke on a new line. "We hear little talk of saving the food after we get it. Many people are living as well as ever, without using substitutes. How many bushels of wheat could we men here save by using substitutes?"

Mr. Sinclair moved that Ex-Mayor Ketcheson be the permanent president, Mr. P. F. Brockel secretary, and Mr. E. P. Frederick treasurer. The motion carried. Mr. Ketcheson, the president, praised the clergy of the city for their co-operation. "I have found them willing and ready at all times. We have to do something besides talk. I promise you I will do everything in my power. I expect everybody to respond willingly to the work."

The committee will get to work at once for appointment of committees and will likely hold a public meeting shortly to place the whole problem before the citizens.

A TRIBUTE TO THE COW

The following is credited to Col. F. M. Woods, the well known auctioneer of Lincoln, Neb., in opening a sale of cattle some years ago:

"Grand and noble brute, of all man's animal friends she is the keeping of pigs. I am going to grow four of them. We have not yet begun to feel the pinch of war into which she enters and note the result should she be blotted out. A when there is none. The people have the get to waken up. Every ounce of great stockyards of our large cities, foodstuff that can be grown must and grass would grow in the streets, be, for we have to feed our men One-half the freight trains that plow the continent from ocean to ocean would sidetrack, for there would be nothing for them to do. Fifty per cent. of the employees would draw no pay on Saturday night and our tables would be bare of the greatest luxuries with which they are now that there were 250,000 store keepers with 750,000 employees. He hoped it would be made compulsory to restrict business to eight hours. The controller replied that the millions of prosperous homes would be destroyed.

"None other is like the cow. There is not a thing from the nose that is not a thing from the nose. We use her horns to comb our hair; her skin is on our feet and army of 750,000 people could be put to work on land. The employees, business and professional men should be interested. She gives us our cream, our butter, our milk, our cheese, and our problem. The war cry in the United States is, "We must feed the Allies to save ourselves." "I would like to see early closing. Every man would do just as much self put through the first chemical process for the manufacture of the soap reduce the hours of business, best quality of white board paper,

and now it has been discovered that this paper can be made into the best false teeth.

"O, you who would abuse the cow, I wish that I could for once take from your table, as you are about to sit down to the evening meal, all that the cow has placed thereon. I would take the cup of milk sitting by the baby's chair. I would take the cream biscuit, the custard pie, the cream for coffee, the butter, the cheese, the smoking roast of beef or steak or sweet corned plate of juicy meat. In fact, I would leave you to your meal upon Irish potatoes, beet pickles and toothpicks."

Artillery Arrives Safe in England

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT MADE OF ARRIVAL OF 246 OFFICERS AND 7,481 MEN

Ottawa, Feb. 26.—It is officially announced that the following Canadian troops have arrived safely in England: First and second Central Cavalry regiments, first Quebec regiment, drafts of artillery from Halifax, Kingston, Toronto, Hamilton, and Cobourg; drafts of infantry from Nova Scotia, Winnipeg, London and Montreal; flying corps, cavalry, medical officers and nurses from various points, totalling in all 246 officers and 7,481 other ranks.

Kills Four and Then Suicides

DOMESTIC TROUBLES CAUSE OF GRIEVOUS TRAGEDY

Columbus, Feb. 19.—After shooting and killing his wife, Lena, aged 38, his six-year-old daughter Mabel and his sister-in-law, Miss Hazel Steele, 25, and so seriously wounding his mother-in-law, Mrs. Sallie Crut, that she is not expected to live, Forest Bigelow, aged 42 this morning turned a gun on himself and died instantly. Domestic troubles are reported to have caused the shooting. Bigelow was an insurance man.

Dope Fiend Stole Drugs

Gananoque, Feb. 20.—A young man about twenty-two years of age arrived here on Friday and visited Dr. J. J. Davis' office. The doctor being out he was admitted to the waiting room, but on the doctor's arrival a short time later he was in the private office reading a magazine. Having made known his errand, he was promptly refused any dope. The doctor's suspicions were aroused, and upon investigation he found that his supply of morphine, opium and cocaine was all gone. He at once got busy with the chief of police, giving a description of the young man. Inside of an hour the chief had landed the offender. The man returned the drugs he had stolen and was placed in custody until Saturday when the doctor, having got back his goods and not wishing to make so serious a charge against the young fellow, suggested that he be given a few hours to get out of town. This was done within the prescribed time limit.

Fuel to be Made From Garbage

Queiuh, Feb. 21.—An agreement has practically been reached for the location here of a plant of the Ontario Oaxoal Manufacturing Co., which proposes to make a new fuel out of garbage. Under the agreement the city provides a free site, free water and free taxes, with the exception of local improvement and patriotic taxes, for a period of ten years. The company agrees to erect a plant to cost not less than \$60,000 and have it ready for operation by July 11, 1918, and not less than eight men will be employed. The city agrees to deliver at the plant all the garbage and waste in the city, and the company agrees to sell the product of their plant, called "Oaxoal", at not more than \$7.00 per ton. These are the principal features of the agreement, which will likely be ratified at the next meeting of the city council.

Clean Stomach, Clear Mind.—The stomach is the workshop of the vital functions and when it gets out of order the whole system closes in sympathy. The spirit flag, the mind droops and work becomes impossible. The first care should be to restore healthful action of the stomach and the best preparation for that purpose is Parweise's Vegetable Pills. Several years ago, when I was a leading name in medicine, a doctor will attest their value.

Letters From Our Soldier Boys

Mrs. M. Ruth Mitts, Crookston has received the following unusually interesting letter and poem from her son, Pte. R. B. Mitts, now doing his duty in France.

France, Dec. 25th, 1917.

Dear Mother,— Just a few lines in answer to your letter received all O.K. I had a very enjoyable day to day. I had a very good Christmas dinner. I am feeling fine myself, but a little lonesome thinking about all at home. I hope you are not feeling too badly over this cruel war. We poor soldiers are all right. I am at the base just now and am sending you a handkerchief from France. I received a letter from Sergeant H. Richards. Well, Mother, I have lots of good chums in my travels, such as Captains and Sergeants and others. It does us a lot of good for we need friends. A letter from home does us good too. I thank my friends and neighbors for being enough interested about me to write, as I surely get a lot of letters. Tell the boys to come on overseas as soon as they can to help in the war. We all want a rest at present. I am at the base for a rest, am quite a distance from the lines, don't hear any of the big guns. We are sleeping in tents. I hope, please God, to see you before next year is out. Don't worry about me. I hear Charlie Mitts is in the hospital in England from shell-shock. We have had a light fall of snow and it has been cold but nothing compared to Canada. Remember me to all friends and tell them I have little time to write. I am enclosing a poem of the boys' Christmas feeling. God be with you, Mother, till we meet again. From your loving son, Pte. R. B. Mitts, 102753.

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS IN THE TRENCHES

'Tis the night before Christmas and all through our house, Not a creature is sleeping, not even a mouse. The boys are as happy as if they'd no care. For at the cook-house tomorrow St. Nick will be there. There will be chicken and a half-pint of beer. To drink to the health of the ones we love dear. There will be a plum-pudding and all kind of pies. And the half-pint of beer will get stewed to the eyes. The non-coms will wait on the privates, 'tis said. And pass round the booty or rather the bread. There will be roast beef and pickles and plenty of jam. And when we have feasted we won't give a continental. For the Kaiser or Fritz or an air raid or shell. The whole collection can all go to—Toronto. Sergeant Blighly has said he'll do all he can. To make Christmas merry for each blinken man. Corporal Long and his staff have all worked overtime. So the least we can do is to chip in a dime. To see the cooks get some Christmas cheer. And after the dinner were having a speech. By Corporal McGinnis; 'twill sure be a peach. There will be fun and good nature and plenty of chaff. And even the grouches will scare up a laugh.

Sidney Sidelights

We all read of high prices and they do not make successful or desirable farm help. And unfortunately and even Germany, but we know by these things to a limited degree at home. We are at war—bloody war, back-to-the-land movement among our ex-farm boys and girls, so that they may enlighten our country people upon the problems of the urban class and in turn receive a better vision of the strenuousness of farm-work today. Our eyes are too often hidden that we cannot see.

Farmers think that city people are having an easy time and making big pay or possessed of fortunes easily gotten, while their town or city neighbors think the farmer is becoming unduly wealthy and is a food profiteer. No doubt the criticism is but little overdrawn in some few cases but generally does not apply. For example, Mr. Farmer goes into the carriage shop where his cousin is earning sixty or eighty cents per hour and prices a cutter. He finds that it is held at seventy dollars and he thinks. Why I only gave thirty twelve years ago for one I am driving, and he says, "This is a hold up, sure!" But he has overlooked the fact that he sold the liv- eryman oats that same winter for thirty cents a bushel and they are now worth one dollar, making rolled oats retail at three pounds for a quarter and he has also forgotten for the time he sold the best wood dry, then at \$4.50 a cord and now he asks fourteen and fifteen dollars for it.

There are differences that can only be adjusted by commonsense and brotherly concern, and we surely need to get together and talk these things over, but not on the market so much as in some social gathering. There is a good field somewhere for Canadian Brotherhoods, or Mutual Improvement Societies or Institutes or some combined public gathering where we can discuss and where buyer and seller, producer and consumer, laborer and manufacturer, can state his case clearly and cause the other to see two sides of the question.

Personal effects have doubled in value, going up while we often slept, land values have increased and the products of the soil are very much more valuable because of the food scarcity. Wages, it is true, have advanced a good deal but not in proportion to the price of staple foods and how many are living is indeed a mystery. We can readily understand why many in city and town are wishing they were on the farm and we believe that many who have left or are leaving the rural settlements, are indeed unpatriotic. As a matter of truth, many who volunteer to come from the towns to aid at farm work are unskilled and, worse still not very sympathetic some times, so that

Breaks Bridges At Galt

Grand River Damages Gas and Water Mains and Floods Cellars Galt, Feb. 22.—The Grand River went on its annual rampage on Wednesday morning, the ice breaking up at 5.50, and as usual caused several thousand dollars' damage in this city. The ice, which was three feet thick, badly damaged two of the bridges, those at Concession and Main streets; broke the gas mains on both bridges and caused the water mains to spring aloft, as a result of which sections of the city were for a time without either gas or water. Both bridges were closed to vehicular traffic, and only one side on each could be used by pedestrians. South Water street was converted into a river, homes being flooded in some cases the water being two feet deep on the main floors. The basements of stores were also filled with water, and much damage was done to stocks. L. E. & N. Railway cars were unable to reach Galt for the better part of the day. The ice broke up suddenly and unexpectedly, on both bridges and caused the water mains to spring aloft, as a result of which sections of the city were for a time without either gas or water.

The Standard Bank of Canada
Head Office: Toronto
This Bank offers every facility in the conduct of accounts of manufacturers, farmers and Merchants.
Savings Department at every Branch.
Belleville Branch - John Elliott, Mgr.
Belleville Office open Mondays and Thursdays
Foxburg Office open Tuesdays and Fridays
Madisonville Office open Wednesdays

HOG PRODUCTION
It is a matter of the greatest importance that Canada should increase her production of BACON HOGS and other live stock as there is at present a world-wide shortage of meat. Good markets for some time to come are assured.

THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE
will gladly make loans to assist farmers in good standing to acquire live stock.
BELLEVILLE BRANCH
C. M. STORK, Manager

UNION BANK OF CANADA
The Foundation of Fortunes
—the ready cash which first enabled the envied possessors to grasp financial opportunity
—in the great majority of cases is found to have been a Savings Bank Balance.
Shrewdness and good sense commend the opening and fostering of a Savings Account in the Union Bank of Canada.
Belleville Branch J. G. Moffat, Manager
Picton Branch C. B. Beamish, Manager

Homeseekers' Bureau
We have all kinds of Properties in every part of City and Country.
Good bargains for investment or speculation.
Let us show you some nice homes at right prices.
Whelan and Yeomans
REAL ESTATE & INSURANCE
GET UNDER YOUR OWN ROOF
BELLEVILLE, ONT.

not last long. Damage at Guelph Guelph, Feb. 22.—The timely arrival of cold weather prevented serious flood damage in this city, but for a time it looked like a repetition of the floods of 1912-13. As it is much low-lying land near the river is under water, the river rising three feet in a few hours. The thaw and rain have been the cause of considerable damage in various parts of the city and probably more cellars have been flooded than ever before. At the carpet mills precautions were taken to remove valuable goods to safety. The cellars of the spinning mills contained water from the overflowing crooks and drains in the neighborhood. At the Fried-Grills hat factory on Suffolk street the water overflowed to such an extent that their fires were put out and the factory closed down on Wednesday. Water in the basement also interfered with the work at the Libby, McNeill & Libby factory. The obsequies of the late Mrs. Deborah A. Anderson took place yesterday from the residence of her son, Mr. Alfred Anderson, of Ross. Mrs. Anderson, of Ross, is the widow of the late Mr. Anderson. The remains were taken to Belleville vault. The bearers were sons of the deceased. Many beautiful floral tributes were received.